XMH-01113
Latitude:
Longitude:
Determination: Not Eligible

Site XMH-01113 is located on a hilltop at the southern end of an east-west running ridge that continues 250m to the north. At the north end of the ridge is a larger hill that is approximately 15m higher in elevation. Views are obstructed in this direction and are limited in all other directions by the surrounding hills. Seventy meters to the north of the southern end of the ridge there is another high point. Site XMH-01114 has been identified on this high point, at the north end of the ridge, and consists of over 200 pieces of lithic debitage. The entire area in the vicinity of XMH-01113 has been burned and all high points on the ridge have at least 75 percent surface visibility. However, only a single projectile point fragment was found on the southern end of the ridge, approximately 200m south of XMH-01114. The nearest water source is a small (15m diameter) lake located to the west of the hill. No other lakes are visible from the southern end of the ridge. UTM coordinates for the site are:

Figure 67. General view of XMH-01113, facing east

Site XMH-01113 consists of a single gray chert projectile point fragment found on the surface. The projectile point fragment is most likely a midsection fragment and measures 21.6mm in width, 22.4mm in height and weighs 3.5g. No other surface artifacts were observed on the southern end of the ridge or between XMH-01113 and the northern end where XMH-01114 is located. Site XMH-01113 was originally identified during a 2003 pedestrian survey as consisting of a projectile point fragment, two quartz flakes, and chert shatter observed on the surface. During the 2004 evaluation of the site the quartz flakes and chert shatter were deemed to be ecofacts.

Shovel tests were systematically placed throughout the southern end of the hill and the high point between the southern and the northern ends of the ridge 70m to the north. A total of 16 shovel tests were excavated, none of which contained cultural material. The depth of the shovel tests varied, but all were excavated to glacial till. Based on the results of the survey and testing, the site area is estimated at approximately 10m x 10m.

No test units were excavated at the site because no subsurface materials were recovered from any of the shovel tests. Based on the shovel tests, soil thickness varied from 20–50cm in depth. Soil stratigraphy and deposition was generally uniform throughout the south slope of the hill where excavations were conducted. The soil consists of loosely compacted, dark brown, organically rich loess to an average depth of 5cmbs. Below this organic horizon, the soil consists of a moderately compacted brown to light brown loess with a low density of gravels. Glacial till is encountered below this loess deposit and consists of a yellowish brown sandy loess with a high density of gravels and cobbles.

Findings

Pedestrian survey and 16 shovel tests produced a total of only one surface artifact. This finding suggests that XMH-01113 is an isolated find. The paucity of cultural material indicates that XMH-01113 does not contain additional information that is important to our understanding of the prehistory or history of the region and is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

XMH-01115

Latitude:
Longitude:
Determination: Eligible

Figure 68. General view of XMH-01115, facing south

Site XMH-01115 is located on a large east-west running ridge. The ridge is approximately 350m in length with a high point near the middle. The site occurs on the high point and continues east onto a smaller and lower hilltop which is part of the same landform. During phase 1 survey, artifact concentrations at the high point and the lower hill to the east were originally given separate site numbers (XMH-01115 and XMH-01117) because the artifacts identified on the surface of these hills were separated by over 70m. However, during phase 2 evaluations, subsurface testing identified artifacts between the two hills, as well as on the surface to the west. As a result of the phase 2 investigations, the two sites were "combined" and now fall under the single AHRS number of XMH-01115. The high point where XMH-01115 was originally located is now referred to as locality A, and the lower hill to the east where XMH-01117 was originally located is now referred to as locality B. Views from both localities are unobstructed to the north with views of a large expanse of generally flat terrain, but hills surround the site in all other directions and thus views are limited. No lakes (or dry lakes) are visible from either of the localities, and the closest water source is a small dry lake that is approximately 300m to the west. UTM coordinates for the site are:

Site XMH-01115 consists of 71 artifacts: 1 projectile point, 3 biface fragments, 24 microblades or microblade sections, 2 microblade core fragments, microblade core rejuvenation flakes and lithic debitage. The lithic debitage includes 34 tertiary flakes, 5 secondary flakes and 1 piece of shatter. Out of the total of 71 artifacts found at the site, 27 of them were found on the surface. These artifacts include 16 tertiary flakes, 3 secondary flakes and 1 piece of shatter or angular debris. The tools include a rhyolite projectile point and three biface fragments. The remaining 44 artifacts were found below the surface either in positive shovel tests or in the test unit. These artifacts included 24 microblades or microblade sections, 2 microblade core fragments, microblade core rejuvenation flakes and lithic debitage. The lithic debitage includes 15 tertiary flakes and 2 secondary flakes. Materials at the site include dark gray chert, gray chert, light gray chert, white chert, black chert, black fine-grained basalt, and brown rhyolite.

Shovel tests were systematically placed throughout both of the hilltops at intervals of 10m where slope and vegetation would allow. A total of four of the shovel tests were positive. Two shovel tests at locality A produced three artifacts at an average depth of 17cmbs and one of the shovel tests at locality B produced one artifact at a depth of

10cmbs. The fourth positive shovel test was placed between localities A and B and produced a total of 15 artifacts from depths of 10–40cmbs.

Table 6. Lithic assemblage recorded from XMH-01115

Artifact Class	Frequency	% of Assemblages
Bifaces		
Projectile point	1	1%
Biface fragments	3	4%
Microblade Cores and Microblades		
Microblade core	2	3%
Microblade core rejuvenation flakes	1	1%
Microblades	24	34%
Debitage		
Flakes	39	55%
Shatter	1	1%
Total	71	100%

One 1m x 1m test unit was excavated at site XMH-01115. This unit was established adjacent to the positive shovel test that was placed between the localities. The unit was excavated in 10cm levels until reaching glacial till throughout the entire unit floor. Based on the test unit and nearby shovel tests, soil thickness between the localities averaged 45cm in depth. Soil in this area consists of loosely compacted, dark brown, organically rich loess that is present to an average depth of 0-10cmbs. Below this organic horizon the soil consists of a moderately compacted brown to dark brown loess. Below this, there is a layer consisting of moderately compacted brown to yellowish reddish brown loess. Glacial till is encountered below these loess deposits and consists of a very loosely compacted brown sandy, silty loess with a high density of gravels and cobbles.

The area between the localities is only slightly lower than locality B, but seems to have been shielded from wind. Both the shovel test and test unit between the localities revealed evidence of burning down to glacial till, 45-50cmbs. Charcoal chunks and flecks were observed within heavily mottled silty soil beginning immediately below the surface and continuing until glacial till was encountered. Artifacts were encountered throughout the excavation unit as well. Twenty-four artifacts were recovered from the unit, 21 of which came from approximately 45cmbs. Of these 21 artifacts, 16 were microblades or microblade sections. Also observed within the unit were five granitic cobbles at various levels beginning at approximately 20cmbs and continuing until 45cmbs. These cobbles did not appear to be modified, arranged, or fire-affected in any way. No other evidence of burning was observed, and some reddish soil and light gray soil was encountered that were both determined to be the result of the decomposing granite. Charcoal samples were collected from the lower levels to be analyzed at another time.

Findings

A total of 71 artifacts were recorded at XMH-01115, 27 of which are associated with microblade production. Forty-four artifacts were found below the surface either in positive shovel tests or in the test unit. Materials at the site include dark gray chert, gray chert, light gray chert, white chert, black chert, black fine-grained basalt and brown rhyolite. Based on the results of the survey and testing, the site area is estimated at approximately 90m x 25m.

Site XMH-01115 is a large lithic site where microblade production occurred. With buried cultural material, XMH-01115 is in an excellent position to contribute to our knowledge of prehistoric land use patterns. In situ artifacts and soil stratigraphy indicate datable material and diagnostic artifacts may be present and could be used to date human use of the site, potentially contributing to a broader regional context. Site XMH-01115 is an intact archaeological site with integrity. The site is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion D for its potential to yield information important in understanding the prehistory of the region.

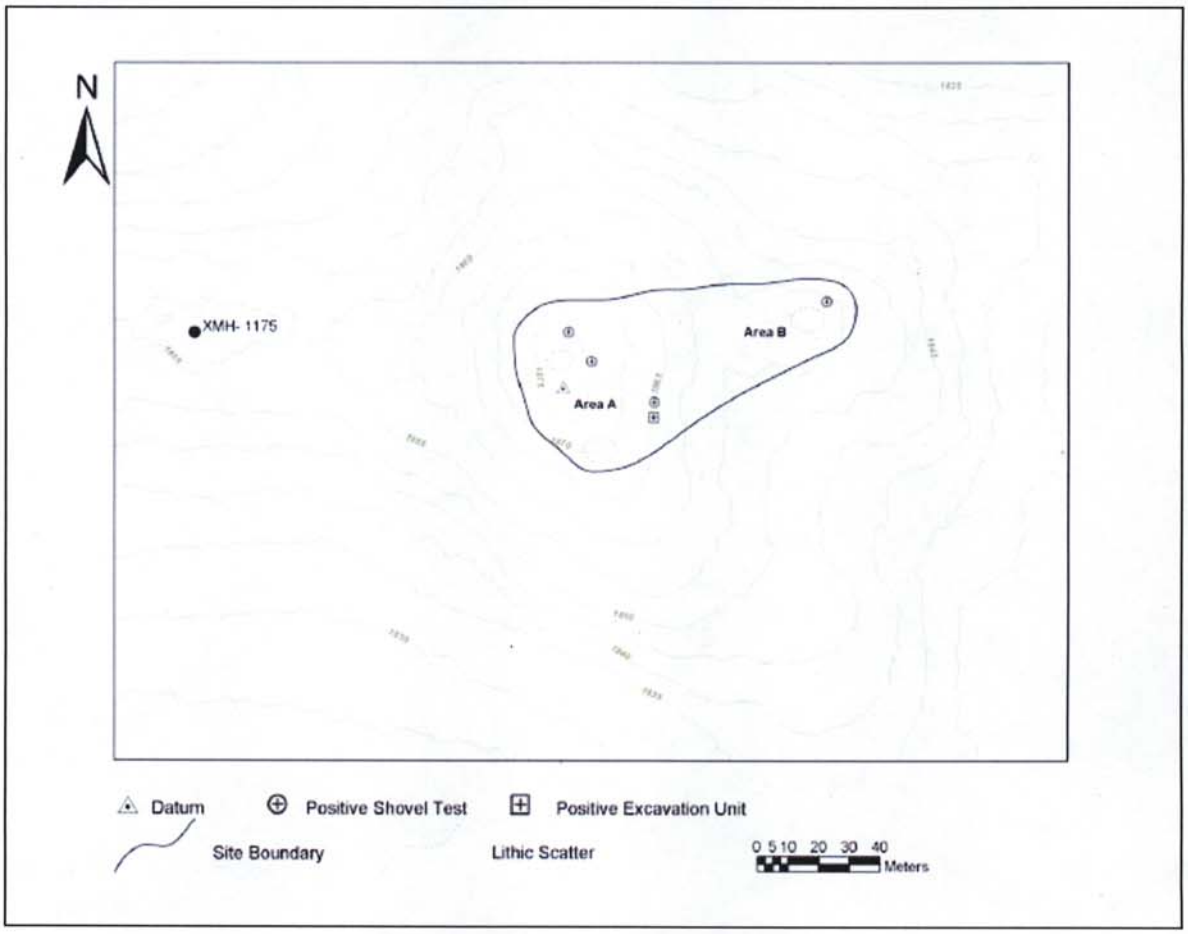

Figure 69. Site map of XMH-01115

XMH-01116
Latitude:
Longitude:
Determination: Eligible

Site XMH-01116 is located at the top of an isolated hill. The hill is elevated 50m above the generally low hilly terrain. The site has a 360° unobstructed view of the surrounding terrain, including which is less than 1km to the southwest. A high degree of surface visibility was observed at the site. UTM coordinates for the site are:

Site XMH-01116 consists of 19 artifacts. Eight flakes and one biface fragment were found on the surface and an additional 10 flakes were found subsurface in either shovel test pits or test units. Chert, quartz, basalt, an unidentified material and obsidian (a non-locally occurring material type) were present among the debitage.

Shovel tests were systematically placed throughout the site area at intervals of 10m. A total of 28 shovel test pits were excavated at the site. The depth of the shovel test pits varied, but all were excavated to glacial till. A total of two shovel test pits were positive. One of the positive shovel test pits contained two artifacts and the other positive shovel test pit contained one artifact. Subsurface artifacts were found from 5-30cmbs in both positive shovel test pits.

Figure 70. General view of XMH-01116, facing southwest

One 1m x 1m test unit was excavated at site XMH-01116. The southwest corner of the unit was placed 9m east and 1.5m south of the site datum, near a positive shovel test pit. The test unit was excavated in 10cm levels until glacial till was reached throughout the entire unit floor. The test unit contained seven artifacts in total. Two artifacts were recovered from level one, 0-10cmbd. Two more artifacts were recovered from level two, 10-20cmbd. An additional three artifacts were recovered from level three, 20-30cmbd. No subsurface features were identified at the site. Soil thickness varied from 0-65cm in depth across the site. The south and southwest portions of the site have sustained considerable wind erosion, and soil deposition only averaged 2-3cm in depth. A total of nine shovel tests were attempted in this area of the site, though no real excavation occurred due to lack of soils. Where there is soil in this area, it consists of loosely compacted, dark brown, organically rich loess to an average depth of 2cm. Glacial till is encountered below this organic horizon and consists of yellow brown sandy loess with a high density of gravels and cobbles. Soil on the north and northeast portions of the site shows more deposition, averaging 30cm in depth. Soil in these areas consists of loosely compacted, dark brown, organically rich loess that is present to an average of 5cmbs. Below this organic horizon, the soil consists of moderately compacted yellow brown loess with a low density of gravels and cobbles. Glacial till is encountered below this loess deposit and consists of yellow brown sandy loess with a high density of gravels and cobbles.

Findings

A total of 19 artifacts were recorded at XMH-01116. Nine artifacts, including a biface fragment, were found on the surface and 10 artifacts were found subsurface in either shovel test pits or test units. Materials at the site include chert, quartz, basalt, and obsidian. Based on the results of the survey and testing, the site area is estimated at approximately 20m x 35m.

Site XMH-01116 is a small site with both surface and subsurface components. With buried cultural material and the presence of obsidian (a non-locally occurring material type), XMH-01116 is in an excellent position to contribute to our knowledge of prehistoric land use patterns. In situ artifacts and soil stratigraphy indicate datable material and